

Oral Defense Announcement

University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Tori Keeven

B. S. Nursing, Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College, 2017

Implementation of a Standardized Nursing Handoff in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Date: July 11, 2024

Time: 10:30am

Place: Seton Hall

Abstract

Handoff communication is critical in healthcare and is associated with patient safety outcomes. Various tools and interventions are available to improve handoff communication as inadequate communication contributes to medical errors, patient adverse events, and increased mortality. The implementation of a standardized handoff tool has been shown to be effective. Findings revealed a significant 60% reduction in reported patient harm events, despite the study's limited sample size and lack of statistical significance ($p = .614$). Challenges such as low utilization (18.62%) were attributed to concerns about tool organization, spatial constraints, and staff resistance to change. Recommendations include refining the tool to better accommodate patient information, improving staff education and engagement, and integrating EHR prompts for more accurate documentation. Ongoing evaluation and feedback are crucial for enhancing and sustaining standardized handoff practices.

Defense of Dissertation Committee

Sarah Jackson, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
Chairperson

Charity Galgani, DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC

Lindsey Kerley, MSN, RN, CPNP-AC